

The Ramtop

Published Quarterly by the Greater Cleveland Sinclair-Timex Users Group

The President's Message

Hello to you all. I hope you are all in good health! I am doing OK for now. A lot

has happened since the last Ramtop. Jon Kazor and I have moved into the notebook computer world. Tom Simon has a small portable but it is not IBM compatible. Bob Parish has had a Tandy laptop for several years. Jon got his from his job. I got mine for work but decided to get a good one since I figure on having it a long time. Jon's and mine are both made by Compaq. Jon's is the LTE 3/25c. That's a 386SL and an active color matrix screen. I got mine a week and a half ago. It is the Contura 4/25cx (486SL) It has the active color matrix screen also. Jon's has a docking connector but mine does not. Let me tell you, these little computers are really a blast! I will have mine at the meetings from now on so if you want to demo a program or have any demo for the IBM, I can run it on mine.



I want to share a couple of little tricks I learned to speed up your modem. If you are one of those that have already gone to a 9600 baud or faster modem, it almost certainly has some form of error correction and/or data compression. I use a popular terminal program called Telix. It is one of the best I have seen. When you configure Telix or any terminal program, you must select the COM port and baud rate that will be used to communicate to the modem. The modem will set itself to the fastest baud rate, best error correction and data compression for the phone line you are on. I assumed that since the modem was rated at 9600, I should set the terminal setting at 9600. This is completely WRONG! If you do this, the modem can not take any advantage of the data compression feature. Most 9600 to 14.4 modems will communicate with the computer at 57,600 baud. Check with your modem manual for the fastest baud rate the modem can handle. I have found that you should also set your baud rate to the BBS that you are going to connect to at least double what the modem is rated. I found that without doing this my transfer rate was about 930 cps. After doubling the baud rate, it was up to 1250 cps. This helps when you want to get off that phone line before the wife grabs the phone to call one of her friends! Take care! JGD

MIRACLE IN NEWPORT

IQLR (International QL Report, published by Sea-Coast Services) is sponsoring a QL get-together to be held in Newport, Rhode Island, USA on the 5th of June 1993. The festivities will be at the Salvation Army Building on Memorial Boulevard between the hours of 1300 and 1800 (1 pm to 6 pm EDST), after which, an optional DUTCH TREAT DINNER (you pay for your own meal) will be held at the Newport Beach Club.

Expected to attend and demonstrate their latest developments are Stuart Honeyball of MIRACLE SYSTEMS, Frank Davis of MECHANICAL AFFINITY, Bill Cable of WIND & WOOD COMPUTING, also planning to attend (not yet confirmed) are Freddy Vachha of DIGITAL PRECISION, Tony Firshman of TF SERVICES, and the outside possibility of Dilwyn Jones of DILWYN JONES COMPUTING.

Also confirmed to be there: Tony Firshman of TF Services and Bill Richardson of EEC. Come and see all of the latest products available for the QL!

There will be ample time for the demonstrations, time to browse the various tables (buy QL stuff), and to also include a question and answer period. We promise it won't be as rowdy as the Question and Answer sessions of the House of Commons.

Come and meet the people responsible for the continuing success of the QL/QDOS; renew old friendships, start new ones, but above all come and have a good old fashioned QL good time. Bring the whole family, Newport is famous for its family orientated activities, and there are plenty of accommodations within minutes of the show.

To pay for the costs incurred, it will be necessary to charge a modest admission fee; pre-registration is \$3.00 per person, at the door registration will be \$5.00 per person. All those in attendance will receive a name badge to help identify everybody.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
Bob Dyl at IQLR, or call 401-849-3805.
 IQLR, 15 Kilburn Court, Newport, Rhode Island
 02840, USA

A Letter from England

When you consider what the QL has to offer combined with developments over the last couple of years e.g. Gold Card, Hard Disks Pointer Software and all at an affordable price, its not surprising that the QL has quite a following here in Europe.

How much did those 286 and then 386 and then again 486 DOS boxes set people back when they first came out ???

Oh and they've just recently been sold an OS that at last taps that power.... Lemmings !!!

To my mind, this would make good material for a conspiracy movie with the computer press being the villian fueling it's own self importance whilst failing it's readship, some of whom must be heavily out of pocket by now... Except perhaps a few QL users !

For Z88 users over here (UK), the best sources for parts are:- Z88 User's Club

Roy Woodward
Fax (44) 773 828707
P.O. Box 15
Belper Derbyshire DE56 0XE

Roy also has 128k & 512k internal RAM upgrade kits i.e. :RAM.0 Ask him about membership to, as there's a sub group in the States.

Another source is:-
Ranger Computers Ltd
Fax (44) 604 589505
Ranger House
2 Meeting Lane
Duston Northampton NN5 6JG

Ranger tend towards hardware & firmware products rather than parts and an impressive range at that to. Clients include the New Zealand Department of Fisheries, the U.K. Army but to name a few !!!

In the States there is/was a company called:-

SHARP'S
Tel 804 730 9697 or Fax 804 746 1978
Box 326 Mechanicsville VA 23111 USA

They did 512 MByte Internal upgrades and a 1 MBytes RAM Card for the Z88 along with some QL specific Software but we haven't heard much from these folk over here for quite a while.

Question:

I noticed in a message to another caller here that you mentioned QL QBox BBS. Is this a BBS running on a QL? If it is, has he made the software available?

Yep sure is. The package is called QBox, runs on a QL and is PD S/w as far as I'm aware. Ask Tony F. for a disk. The author is not surprisingly, a very bright Dutch chap by the name of Jan Bredenk who also runs a BBS for the QL in Holland. In fact there are several QL BBS's throughout Europe (see later). The U.K. has several, many serviced by FI-DONet. The best and most widely accessed being Tony Firshman's QL BBS, a Gold Card QL with 40 MByte Hard Disk running over the QL Network to a second QL. Settings are:- 8 bits 1 stop and no parity. Speeds up to 2400 only however, although at least 2 of the others run up to 9600 baud, but Tony's is the probably the defacto central repository of all things current, not least because its been going for at some 6-7 years. I've accessed this BBS direct from Australia when I've been home there without problems, albeit quickly !!!

Tony Firshmans QL BBS,
London, U.K. (44) 71 706 2379
Note that you can Fax him on the same number 24hrs.

One of the Quanta Sub-Groups here produce a small plug in host card for the existing QL internal ROM socket which then houses 2 ROM sets which you can then select before boot up via an external toggle switch on the back of your QL. Common configurations are AH/JM/JS Roms along with a version of Laurence's Reeves Minerva QDOS re-write.

Tony & his side kick, Laurence Reeves have also developed a neat replacement for the 8049 IPC chip which does away with keybounce problems, allows differing baud rates on SER1 & SER2, and more importantly for me fixes, the woeful performance of this chip in dealing with serial input so that you can now direct connect any modem to SER1 or SER2 and run at up to 19200 baud without problems !!!

Also ask Tony about sending you a catalogue, mention my name, who knows, he may charge you more !!!.

Quanta, the U.K. QL user group now produce the QIMI mouse interface card for driving an Atari ST compatible mouse, contact:-

QUANTA Phil Borman
Tel (44) 0933 460690 sorry, no fax here
1 Newton Road Raunds Northants NN9 6LX

Quanta also secured the rights to the GST 68000 Assembler sometime ago and have developed it further to include Macro support. This is what Tony Tebby still uses in his on going developement of QDOS and the Pointer Interface and SMS2.

Letter from England Continued

Another Quanta user has just claimed to have developed a 'fast network card' for the QL. No specific details as yet, but I'm hoping it's an ethernet card with support for TCP/IP. There again, it might just be a fast Sinclair protocol card.

In Germany, many developers are bringing out hard & soft products, the later all running via the brilliant Pointer Interface. BTW, QPac2 is now up v1.24 with a new 'Thing' called 'FileInfo' which when configured, allows launching of applications akin to the Mac. e.g. DO on a Text87 doc file and Text87 is either 'Picked' if running or loaded if not, and the document loaded along with it. I should point out that most early QL Applications themselves don't support this, but those that can take a filename input from the thesystem stack will, and a lot of releases over the last several years do, including my own project which is essentially a 'Norton Disk Doctor' for the QL Hard Disks, release date sometime this century !!

Our German, Dutch and Belgium associates are responsible for releasing most of the currently available Pointer Software, including:-

'QD4' text editor with which I'm writing this communication 'QSpreadII' Spreadsheet for the QL with up to 32K cells

'FiFi' File & text in file Finder utility which, when you have a hard disk, you often wonder how you managed to get by without it!!

'EasyPointerIII', a CAD program for developing and designing Pointer programs in both Superbasic and to Assembler if required.

'QDesign' a graphic design and drawing program with support for Vector Fonts. 'DataDesign Vers 3' a DataBase program with a programable a SBasic interface that you can write your own Database applications in SBasic, as opposed to Archive's Application language, but unlike Archive you can then Compile it as a stand alone job, now with file sharing.

'Qractal' a Fractal Generator etc, etc...

All are really good products exploiting the virtues of the Tony Tebby's Pointer Interface.

Contact:-

Jochen Merz Software
Fax 49 203 501274
Im stillen Winkel 12 W 4100
Duisburg 11 Germany

Jochen also does a QL SER port Mouse Driver for IBM Compatible Mice, but for me, I prefer the QIMI as it doesn't tie up Serial Port. He also has a BBS for general COMMS and product support e.g. upgrades on (49) 203 591 7806

PROGS

Tel ?Fax? (32) 16 488952

Joachim & Nathan Van der Auwera
Haachtstraat 92 3020 Veltem Belgium

Developers of Data Design, The Painter, Qractal, and now LineDesign a Vector drawing program.

On the Hardware side, of course there is the external Miracle Systems with their Gold Card 68000 16 MHz 2 Mbyte RAM Accelerator which is mainly responsible for the apparent renewed and certainly continued activity in the QL and now the soon to be released QLX 68EC040 20 MHz 8 MByte PC QL emulator card which will bring VGA to the QL world with a resonance to match the arrival of the Gold Card, contact:-

Miracle Systems Ltd
un-beleivably still Tel only...
(44) 904 423986
Stewart Honeyball
25 Broughton Way
Osbaldwick York YO1 3BG

Next there's our German friends again...

Jurgen Falkenburg
Fax (49) 7231 81058
Thanweg 36
D-7539 Ersingen Germany

Jurgen has some interesting QL Bus Expansion Products including a Hard Disk I/F for MFM & RRL Hard Disks compatible with or without Gold Card. Jurgen also does an excellent IBM AT Keyboard interface for installation with or without the QIMI mouse interface.

John Merz does some excellent Atari QL Emulators for the Atari 68*** systems, most notably, the recently released QVME for the VME Bus of the Mega STE. Get Jochen to send you a catalogue if your into top product, not that the other mentioned here aren't mind you !!!

Finally, there follows a list of all current U.K. & European QL BBS's. Note that to dial the U.K. BBS's from the USA, you will need to drop the leading '0' from all numbers and add the U.K. country code prefix of '44'



EUROPE BULLETIN BOARD LIST

(21 Dec 92)

I take NO responsibility for the accuracy of this list, and mainly depend on sysops of the respective boards (and users) to let me know of changes.

KEY:

3 - V23 (1200/75)
 1 - V21 (300/300)
 2 - V22 (1200/1200)
 2b - V22bis (2400/2400)
 H - HST (4=4800 9=9600 1=14400)



V - viewdata (V23 EVEN parity) T - scrolling (SPACE PARITY - 8 bits no parity can also usually be used)
 R - ringback. Dial and let phone ring twice. Then re-dial. E - QL ECHO mail

----- UK -----

Lau's Place	T123/2b	0208-880735	Laurence Reeves QBOX
Grizzly	ETH12/2b ET123/2b	0772-828975 0772 204388	Colin Adams. Over 400mb of disk space!
Cybernet	T123/2b	071-978 8595	Dave Bodger, 24 hrs.
4th dimension	ET123/2b	0202-600305	21:00-18:00 (QL/Spectr) Wayne Weedon -QBOX
QBBS	ET123/2b	071-706 2379	24 hrs. THIS board! QL/IBM/Atari. Qualsoft/TF Services support, A lso Quanta Area
QUBBE	V3R	0376-47852	24hrs. Essex Quanta group. Ron Dunnett.
CIAO	T123	0253-780021	2200-0800 Riccardo Brezzi QBOX
FORST BBS	ETH123/2b	0256 331998	(from 7 Jan 92) Robert Weeks
Phoenix BBS	ET123/2b	091-4775472000	20:00-0630 (Derek Stewart) (2:256/25)
Alba Maximus/ETH123/2b		041-8807863	24hrs Glasgow Quanta/Internation QL echo use 4 sec delay after dial for Qconnect

----- International -----

Jan Bredenbek	ETH123/2b/32/32B	010-3135237178 24 hrs (HOLLAND) Sysop (Jan Bredenbeek) wrote QBOX software
SBOX	ET123/2b	010-31167966854 Jack Raats, Holland. 22:00-04:30
Jamsten-TCL	ET123/2b	010-4664210300 Michael Cronsten, Sweden (in Swedish)
QLAT	ET123/2b	010-3130962265 Marco Holmer QL echo (2:283/500)
Andromeda	ET123/2b	010-3963215218 Giovanni Greco Italy (2:335/21)

I know that a lot of this can also be found in QL World (still going despite Robert Maxwell's demise) but your enquiry seemed to imply that you folk are perhaps in the dark re QL happenings, whatever, I hope this information is of help to you. Now I have to get back to my QL 'Norton Disk Doctor' Project !!!

Bye for now.

Regards... Chris Fowler

CD-ROMs

Using the Mitsumi LU005S

A week ago, I logged onto Jim Lewis's computer to use a CD-ROM disc that he purchased. That demonstration convinced me that the time was ripe to buy a CD-ROM drive. After checking out some of the local stores, I bought a Mitsumi CRMC LU005S at Micro Center. The main consideration for me was that the drive have a fairly fast access time, since I saw that some programs required access times of 380ms or less. The Mitsumi has an access time of 350ms. At \$199.97, the drive is one of the lower priced models.

The Mitsumi CD-ROM drive is an internal model that comes with a proprietary interface card, cables, manual, and IBM driver software. The installation disks are in both 3 1/2" and 5 1/4" formats, and include a TSR that allows you to play standard audio CD's with the drive. While it isn't stated on the drive's box, the Mitsumi is able to read multiple session Kodak photo discs.

Installing the drive was simple; no more difficult than installing a floppy drive. Fortunately the default jumper settings on the interface card worked right away. There are quite a few different addresses and IRQs that you can assign the card if they default settings conflict with your current equipment.

Loading the software drivers was just as simple. The installation program copied the driver and MS-DOS extensions and modified the CONFIG.SYS file. After installing the software, just reboot the machine, and you are ready to go.

Using a CD-ROM disc

With an MS-DOS compatible CD in the CD-ROM drive, the CD-ROM drive acts just like a giant hard drive. A CD-ROM may contain up to 680 Mb of files and data. The data may consist of executables, data, zipped files, etc. and are read only. The only difference you may notice between the CD-ROM and a hard drive is that the CD-ROM takes a little longer to find the file that you are looking for. Part of this extra time is because the seek time is much slower than a hard drive, and because the drive sometimes stops spinning. Spinning up the drive can add another second or so to access times.

CD-ROM discs have become common. Some discs contain just one commercial program, but many of the discs contain compilations of shareware, GIF graphics, sound files, pornography and a ton of other files. These shareware based discs tend to be very inexpensive considering the mass quantity of files you are getting. Some are priced as low as \$10, and they seldom cost more than \$40. I figure that the discs are cheaper than logging on to some bulletin board, let alone CompuServe. Even with a high speed modem, it would take days to download the data contained on just one CD-ROM disc.

The audio CD player software that comes with the Mitsumi drive is simple but works just fine. You just load a regular audio CD in to the drive, type 'playcd' and a press the play button on the pop up menu, or on the numeric keypad. You can use the mouse or keypad to operate the player. The player works fine, but doesn't allow you to program the playing of the disc. You can skip tracks, or fast forward and reverse the tracks, but only manually. You can either listen to the disc through the front mounted stereo headphone jack, or pipe the music out from the RCA jacks on the back of the interface card to the line in on your stereo system. Stereo headphone jack has a volume control which does come in handy.

Sooner or later, a CD-ROM is in the future for most users of computers, and the future is now.

David Hoshor

What CD's Are There?

With only six CD-ROM discs, I hardly consider myself an expert, but here are my capsule reviews of the discs that I have.

Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective, Volume 2 - What you expect a CD-ROM disc to be. Sherlock Holmes combines sound and live actor motion pictures with new Sherlock Holmes mysteries. You select witnesses and suspects to interview and are shown quarter screen animations of the interview. While the graphics are fairly low resolution, the overall effect is impressive. There are ninety minutes of animation and sound on the disc. Your job is to interview suspects and witnesses and present the facts to a barrister. If you answer the barrister's questions correctly, you've won! A scoring system lets you compare your score against an ideal score earned by Sherlock himself. Scored like golf, a lower score is better. The mysteries aren't too difficult. The one downside is that once you've selected a witness or suspect, he spills all his knowledge whether you know all the necessary facts that led to his selection. \$50.

1992 Guinness Disc of Records (DOS Version) - Interesting, but a disappointment. The disc contains the entire text of the 1992 Guinness Book of World Records, and a interface that allows you to search the disc by various topics. Some of the articles are illustrated with GIF graphics. The sound clips that are used, don't make use of a sound card, but are played as audio tracks on the CD-ROM, so you have to use headphones or a stereo amplifier. An inconsistent user interface mars the whole program. Sometimes you use the mouse, at other times, you use the keyboard. Part of the program has to be installed on the hard drive, a definite minus. A dictionary is incorporated to define words within articles, but is unavailable to user to look up words of the users choosing. I wish I had passed this one up. \$35.

Shareware Overload - A large collection of shareware, freeware, and public domain program. 550 Megabytes of zipped files. Not a bad collection; sensibly laid out directory structure but most files are pre 1992. Contains collections of Windows programs, database programs and files, sound and music files, communications programs, clipart etc. Some of the files are duplicated elsewhere on the disc, but with this many files, who cares? Over 2000 games programs, and over 6000 zipped files in total! This one could keep you busy for months. \$20.

Sound Sensations! - A collection of almost 18,000 sound files and utilities! I made up a bat file and just listened to music and sound for hours. If you have a sound card, this one is worthwhile, because there are some gems mixed in with the burps, and farts, and Star Trek sound clips. \$15.

Clipart Goliath - Over 11,000 clipart files in PCX and TIF formats, split about equally. The quality of the files varies greatly from very good to very poor, but the files are organized logically so that is easy to find an appropriate image. \$15.

Phoenix CD Version 3.0 - The worst of the bunch. The editor didn't know the difference between Clipper and clipart, so the desktop publishing section has a large collection of Clipper files and no clipart files. The sound files are individually zipped so you have run a zip program to unzip each and every one of the them; a real drag. The user interface just about forces you to use their method of file searching because the directory names aren't very descriptive. The disk does have a nice collection of over 800 GIF graphics files. \$14.

DNH

== Sinclair Notes ==

This issue of the Ramtop has something for everyone. In continuing with our policy to support all computers, we have articles for the PC, the QL. Our next issue will have 2068 programs and articles. We still need your contributions so send us your articles and programs.

A while back I thought that I had a hard drive crash on my PC. I used Spinrite and brought it back. Unfortunately I wasn't so lucky with my laptop, a Tandy 200, which lost the extra CMOS RAM and cold started in the primary bank of RAM. That same day I glitched one of my JLO disks for the 2068. I wondered if I had picked up the Gypsy computer virus curse! It served as a painful reminder that we all should back up our programs and check the backups, on a regular basis.

The other day I saw a demonstration of Paradox for Windows. Some of you know that I am not a fan of Windows which I have viewed as some sort of a fancy kludge for DOS machines. However Windows does provide some benefits, providing that you have the hardware to support it. Also more and more software is being written to take advantage of the windows environment. One of the better examples of this that I have seen to date is the new version of Paradox which enable you to set up fields, forms and relationships easily from the menu using a mouse. It is in fact much simpler to work with than other types of relational databases I have seen. On top of that you are able to link graphics files, to the data and have it appear on screen in any manner that you choose. This version of Paradox seems to be the best so far and could be used for parts identification, employee id or as part of a grading system for teachers. It is compatible with the main database systems, though I didn't get a chance to see how it might import non-standard DB files like those from Archive. There is one major exception to that and it is the FOX DB program. At this time an interface has not been written to support importation of data from it. Borland has a

good reputation overall, and good support and I think that at the introductory price of \$139.95 it will be quite attractive to many people using windows on their PC.

Last issue we published a bit about the problems some BBS operators were having, in particular with the "Adult Sections". What follows are some thoughts on that subject.

Most people believe that any sort of censorship is rather undesirable by the government. On the other hand, it should be hoped that some of the extremely distasteful material that is on the edge of or passes most if not all of our society's taboos would not be available on BBS systems. What is the solution? Is our definition of "Adult" flawed? Should "Adult Sections" instead contain literature, philosophy, theology, politics and art rather than provide a peep show? It can be argued that pornography can be a serious adult topic. This is true but it also can be argued that it can be also regarded as a primarily juvenile pastime. Ultimately we hope that individuals will be able to make their own choices

In late March the trial of Mark Lehrer, the 22 year old Sysop was concluded with a plea bargain. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of the attempted possession of a criminal tool (ie. his computer). Apparently the police and the Cuyahoga Falls prosecutors have nothing better to do with their time than to harass a young man. Buried in the report of his conviction was the notation that the police had used the criminal statutes to confiscate his computer for their own use. We have heard reports of this type of behavior about other Police departments but were surprised to hear it about the Monroe Falls police. Also reported but not known until now was that the boy's father was a local office holder and the case could have been possibly part of small town politics. Whatever the reason the trouble that was caused by these "Law Enforcement" officials is enough to make one question the honesty and integrity of not only the police but the courts and the legal officials of the communities involved in this and other matters under their jurisdiction.

Next, we ask you, our local members, to renew your membership and pay Jon Kaczor at the next meeting that you attend. We

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Users Group

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Please send editorial contributions and
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Ohio 44221

Sinclair Notes Concluded

have minimized our expenses but need a small reserve to maintain publication of the newsletter and our other operations.

We know some of the other user groups, that we send our newsletter to, no longer publish newsletters, and others have changed their interests. We have gone to publishing quarterly which is much more manageable for us and allows more time to collect and write articles. My recent acquisition of a Panasonic 1123 printer and the program Finesse allowed an improvement in the look of our newsletter. We have extended older subscriptions and pro-rated them for the difference of the number of issues received per year. However these subscriptions are running out now and we haven't received many newsletters in exchange from other groups. If your group would like to continue the exchange please let us hear from you. If your group is no longer publishing a newsletter, a subscription (\$15) or a contribution of articles would be appreciated. Should we not hear from you or your group this will probably be the last newsletter you receive from us. Other groups who would like to start a newsletter exchange please write to the editor at the address for editorial submissions.



Neil gives us his most mysterious magician's look

Resources



ZX Clive Alive!
1301 Kiblinger Place
Auburn, Indiana 46706

Mechanical Infinity
513 East Main St.
Peru, Indiana 46970

Unix Tips

Here are a few tips for the user who picks up the BARGAIN Unix System at the Ham-fest, only to find that he can't access it.

As far as standard Unix goes, there is no simple way to take control of the system as the "Super-User" (Unix name for sysop) without actually having the super-user's password to begin with. Some systems will have an option to enter system maintenance mode during boot-up. If this one does, you will have to edit the file named "/etc/passwd", which is the system password file. The first line in it is the super-user's account. Fields are separated by a colon. The first field is the username, which will be "root", and the second field will be the password, encrypted. Take out the password field so the line looks something like

```
root::Super-User:.....  
instead of  
root: jd7Fd(df8asdf9DFf:Super-User:.....
```

The rest of the fields won't matter at this time. The command to edit the file will be:

```
# vi /etc/passwd
```

The rest of the fields won't matter at this time. The command to edit the file will be:

```
# vi /etc/passwd  
(# is the prompt)
```

If this doesn't work (or if it has no sysadmin mode you can get into -- mine requires the root password to get into it -- catch-22), I may have to look at the system personally and see if I can use my system to "break into" the root account

Here's some standard default accounts for you to try. They usually have been changed (or passwords changed), but who knows -- maybe the previous owners were dumb!

```
login:  
password: root  
<none> uucp  
uucp uucp  
<none> uucpmgr  
uucp sysadmin sysadmin
```

mine requires the root password to get into it -- catch-22), I may have to look at the system personally and see if I can use my system to "break into" the root account.

If none of the above information works out for you, let me know, and we'll have to set something up.
Mike N8NVW



Variety Fontpack

Do you want a selection of over 200 fonts for your word processor or desktop publishing program at bargain prices? Try ATech's Variety Fontpack, a collection of scaleable fonts that is installable on a wide variety of programs. The main feature that attracted me to Variety Fontpack is that it supports the fonts used by GeoWorks, the program that I usually use for desktop publishing. At only \$25 for 200 fonts, I think that the program is a good deal.

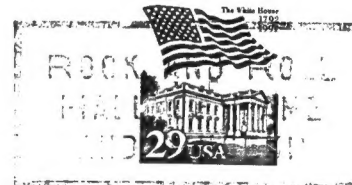
Variety Fontpack has about a dozen headline typefaces, twenty or so specialty typefaces, and more than twenty regular text typefaces. Each of the type faces can be installed in a number of variations: thin, wide, compressed, bold, etc. There are two Dingbat fonts that let you mix some clipart type graphics with your text, and there is a Harmony font, that lets you print musical symbols. The fonts come in a universal format on four 3 1/2" disks. The installation program converts the font into the form that your program is expecting.

Variety Fontpack supports TrueType®, Adobe Postscript® type1 and 3, Atech FastFont, Agfa Compgraphic Intellifont®, HP LaserJet® III, GeoWorks Ensemble®, DTC Nimbus Q®, and Spinnaker PFS. You install Fontpack's installation program on your hard drive, and then select the program that you want their fonts converted to. You then just select the fonts that you want installed on your drive. The program is fairly simple to use.

DNH 



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99-01-0
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